

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 001356

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/06/2013

TAGS: [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [IZ](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: IAF URGES CITIZENS NOT TO COOPERATE WITH US TROOPS

Classified By: Acting DCM Doug Silliman for reasons 1.5 (b) and (d)

IAF SUPPORTS BOYCOTT AGAINST US TROOPS

1. (U) The Islamic Action Front (IAF) issued a statement--published in the Muslim Brotherhood mouthpiece Al-Sabil on March 4--urging Jordanians to boycott US soldiers. The statement called on Jordanians to refuse leasing land, housing, or cars, and not to provide US soldiers with food or services. "Following the government's explicit announcement on the presence of hundreds of US soldiers in the country...it has become necessary not to offer any services to those soldiers since they are part of the US-British buildup, which announces day and night its intention to invade Iraq."

LOW LEVEL GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

2. (U) An unnamed source from the government responded quickly in several newspapers that the GOJ disapproved of the IAF statement and emphasized that the US troops in Jordan were there only to train Jordanian forces on operating the Patriot missile batteries, not to participate in any Iraqi conflict. Hamza Mansour, Secretary General of the IAF, responded to the government's statements by telling the press, "we are concerned with keeping the country's soil and airspace free from any foreign military presence targeting Arab countries." So far, there has been no apparent response from Jordan's business community to the IAF's call and we have heard of no vendors adhering to it.

COMMENT

3. (C) We continue to expect the IAF to try to take advantage of popular strong anti-war sentiments. This particular action is unlikely to generate a wide-spread response. On the heels of the largely unsuccessful boycott calls last spring in response to the Israeli incursion in Jenin, however, we might expect similar calls for boycotts of American goods and services in the event of a conflict in Iraq.
GNEHM